

LEASIDE PROPERTY OWNERS'
ASSOCIATION

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BRIEF TO GOLDBERG COMMISSION
SUBMITTED BY
LEASIDE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

This brief is presented by the LEASIDE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION, a non-profit organization with over 2,000 members founded in 1946 and the expressed objects of which are:

- (a) To promote co-operation between all governing bodies and property owners in Leaside in matters pertaining to legislation, administration and taxation or any other matter which is deemed to be in the interests of this community.
- (b) To study problems of the property owner that have a direct bearing on his well-being as a property owner or the well-being of the community as a whole and to anticipate such problems.
- (c) To formulate recommendations for submission to the governing bodies with a view to obtaining corrections of any injustices to the community.
- (d) To promote a good community spirit by fostering good neighbourly relations among all members.
- (e) To promote interest in good government and civic affairs.

Other organizations have the funds and facilities to undertake extensive studies with experts qualified in all possible fields.

But, this brief will endeavour to present in an informal, unsophisticated way some thoughts of the typical thinking property owner in Leaside.

Some critics of our town refer to "selfish Leaside" and suggest that Leasiders' only purpose in not supporting a total amalgamation of the 13 metropolitan municipalities is because it would cost Leaside more. We believe this is far from the true picture.



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We feel most of the 5,000 or so property owners in Leaside would far rather maintain the basic municipal entities of the town with their many advantages--even if this means some financial sacrifice.

Let us hasten to say that advantages may not be unique to Leaside--many we believe are shared with other of the smaller municipalities in the greater Toronto orbit.

Leasiders already pay a larger percentage of their tax dollar to the Metropolitan Toronto Government than most, if not all the taxpayers, in the other metropolitan areas.

What are these advantages?

In the first place, we feel the ideal sized municipal unit is a relatively small one. In a small municipality, the town employees who do the work--who supply the services which the municipality exists to provide, are supervised by those who must directly report to the town council or committee in charge. To have any more levels of government, we suspect, makes for a top-heavy supervisory staff with places for procrastination--places where inefficiency can lurk.

Primarily because of this system, we submit, garbage collections and snow removal services, for example, can be organized speedily, efficiently and economically.

We do not need studies to tell us that a small municipality can get things done--and quickly if necessary.

We know too that \$1,000 means far more to a smaller municipality than a giant one--even such small amounts are carefully scrutinized in any small budget where they are lost in a large one.

In a small municipality, the taxpayer can most easily put his problems directly to the council members or governing body concerned--to the people who know the local problems--to the people who can and do directly control the means to correct them--immediately if advisable, and without the necessity of scheming with other municipalities for a back-scratching "deal". A small municipality can give the specialized services it knows its people want.

In most small municipalities as in ours, the council chamber or other place of meeting is not too far away from anyone--and most meetings are held in the evenings so that more people attend and participate. Direct verbal presentations are the rule. It does not take weeks before any group can be heard. One had only to see the overflow crowds attending the four public meetings held in Leaside relative to the new town plan to appreciate the concern of the rate-payers for the future of the area.

The individual taxpayer has a bigger voice in his community--each vote is important.

Then too, as the elected officials so also the town employees. They know the town--its problems and its peculiarities-- and so can and do give better, faster service. The town clerk can easily be reached directly to answer any problems a taxpayer may have.

Partly because of what we have discussed above, a small municipality often develops a more healthy community spirit and respect for government.

Leaside is proud of the fact that it regularly has a higher percentage of its voters come to the polls in municipal elections than do so in the other Metropolitan municipalities.

Then too, hundreds of people in Leaside for instance, serve without remuneration on planning boards or other important municipal committees. Already a resident of Leaside has been chairman of the Metropolitan Safety Council.

The friendly attitude of a local group--tied together by a common pride in their "town" promotes active and congenial citizens--good citizens. No loneliness of the detached big metropolis here.

C O N C L U S I O N

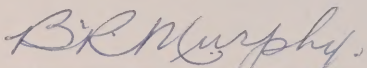
Some services, no doubt, are better provided for by a large metropolitan-type government or by a 4 or 5 borough system. But we do feel that most of the services traditionally provided by municipal governments are best handled locally and by the small municipalities themselves unless there are overpowering reasons for the contrary in the case of any individual service.

Leaside is one historical unit. We can see no good reason why its 50-year heritage should not be allowed to continue. We do not want Leaside irretrievably buried by the setting up of arbitrary boundaries. This we are sure would only lead to a disruption of its healthy community spirit. We are prepared to give up municipal control of certain services but not to give up our political entity.

Some people recommend a system of 4 or 5 boroughs of roughly equal size. We can see no advantage to be gained by flying in the face of the facts of history by doing this, any more than we can see any advantage in re-organizing Canada itself into 4 or 5 provinces of approximately equal size.

Respectively submitted by the directors of the Leaside Property Owners' Association with the unanimous approval of the Board.

LEASIDE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION



B. R. Murphy, President

